

# FOCUS

Volume Ninety-Eight, Number Three  
Spring 1998

A Publication for Alumni and Friends Maryville College

*A College of  
Faith and Learning*

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.

More of Prof

Lamar

# Focal Points

*G*reetings from the Maryville College campus!



"A College of Faith and Learning." This is the heading on an important section of the MC 2000 Plan, the strategic plan that is guiding our work at Maryville College in this period. The heading is a statement about the nature of this college. Maryville is a place where we seek to bring faith and learning, spirit and intellect, into harmony for students preparing to take on the world. It is a challenge that many colleges created by the church have not been able to meet in the 20th century. Many, though they, like Maryville, began as institutions founded as an extension of church mission, have lost their way in this century, slipped free of their moorings in the unsettled seas of modern culture.

Some readers of *Focus* have worried that Maryville, too, might have lost its way. To those who have written with this worry, I have affirmed my own belief that Isaac Anderson's college has remained faithful to its heritage and mission.

Without question, many of the rules that alumni of earlier eras remember don't appear in current handbooks at Maryville College. They, along with compulsory chapel, were victims of that pivotal decade of the 1960s. Before that decade ended, the whole of American society was in turmoil, and much that my generation found good and holy was swept away. The genie, some might say, escaped the bottle in that decade, and all the nostalgia and regret in the world won't get it back inside the glass.

Still, I can confidently affirm Maryville's faithfulness to its heritage and mission. It is still a place that espouses education for the whole person, where both spiritual and intellectual development get serious attention. It is still a place where education is values-based, where character is considered an important educational product. It is still a place where the curriculum includes study of the Bible, and where the ethical dimension is woven into a wide range of courses, from business to the sciences. It is still a place where the student is encouraged to seek education, not merely for selfish ends, but to equip him or her for service to others. The rules have changed, to be sure, and worship is now voluntary, but the educational mission at Maryville College remains grounded in its Presbyterian heritage.

I am often asked whether the Presbyterian Church supports the College financially. That, too, has changed over the decades. An honest answer is that no more than a quarter of one percent of the budget of the College will come in 1998 from all church sources combined. But money, as important as it is to serving our students well, is not what motivates and directs us in pursuit of our mission. Despite the vicissitudes of this century, and despite the declining financial support from the church which gave it birth as a seminary 179 years ago, Maryville remains committed to an ongoing partnership in mission.

The MC 2000 Plan is intended to assure that, as we enter the new millennium, Maryville will be at its strongest in every regard. Readers of *Focus* know that the enrollment this year is at its highest in history. The endowment of the College, having grown by nearly 70 percent since 1993, is also at an historical high. But the strength of the College as we reach the year 2000 will be measured, not by enrollment and endowment alone, but by its success in producing graduates whose faith and learning exist in harmony and work in concert. We remain committed to that ideal. ❖

*Gerald W. Gibson*

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Page 2

## Becoming a Thinking Christian

Dr. William Meyer, Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy, and two of his students, discuss the relationship between church and college.

Pages 4 - 5

## Tales from Alumnae Travels

Two of the many MC graduates who give their time and energy in overseas missionary work.



Page 6

## Restoration of the CCM

This component of the MC2000 campaign serves as symbol of MC's faith.

Page 8

## Ethical Dilemma

Teaching of ethics an integral part of new MC curriculum.



Volume Ninety-Eight, Number Three  
Spring 1998

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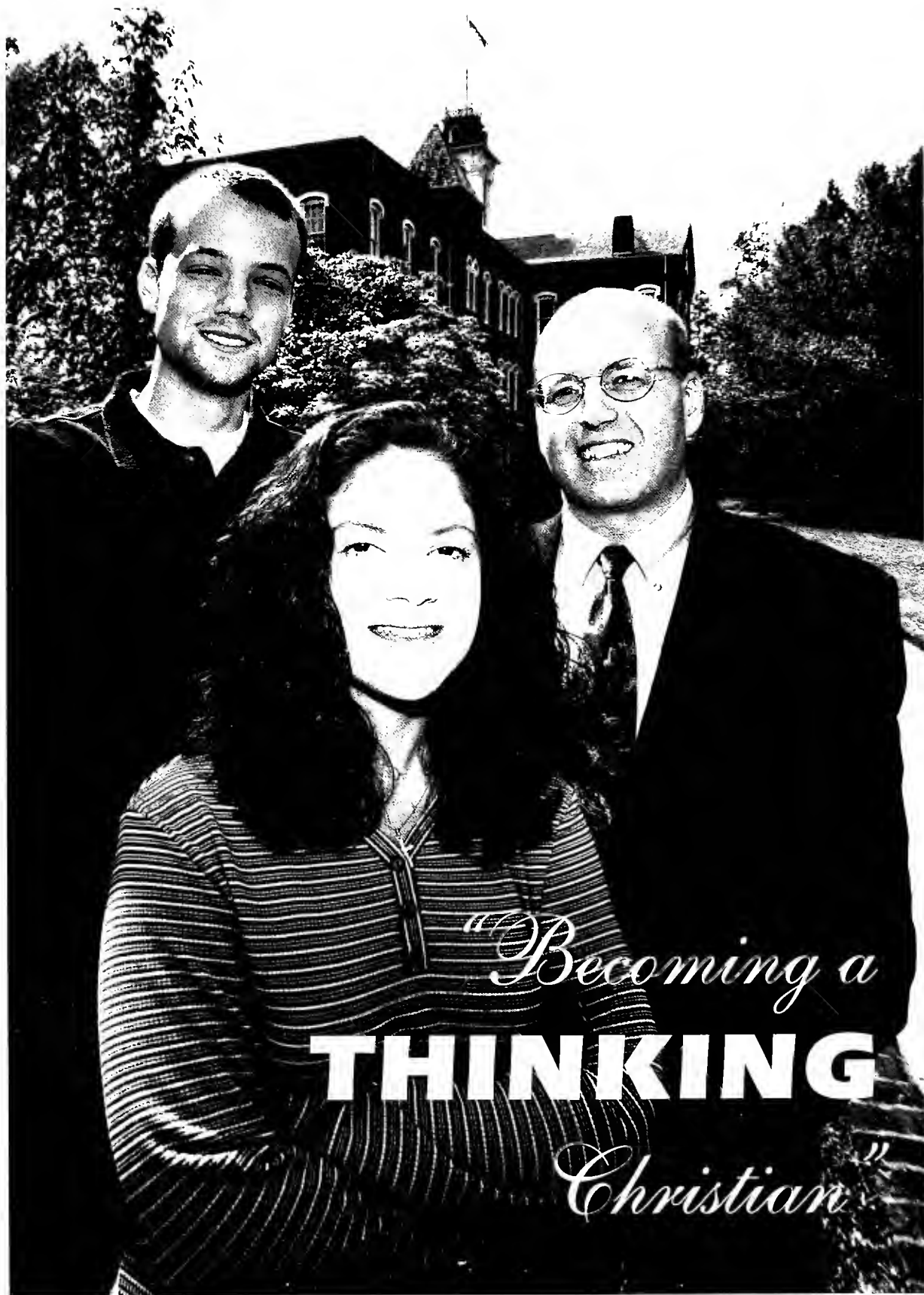
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*Becoming a*  
**THINKING**  
*Christian*

# “What Does it Mean to be a Church-Related College Today?”

by Dr. William Meyer  
Assistant Professor of Religion & Philosophy  
at Maryville College and an ordained Presbyterian minister

This important question continues to generate much interest, discussion, and puzzlement on many campuses across the country, including here at Maryville College. It is not an easy question to answer because being a church and being a college are not the same thing; they are different types of institutions with different defining goals. In short, a defining goal of a church is to proclaim and bear witness to the central convictions of the Christian faith. A defining goal of a college, on the other hand, is to equip students to test all convictions in a thoughtful and critical way, including Christian ones. Hence, to try to integrate these different goals into the life of a single institution (a church-related college) is a challenging task. Most church-related colleges, it seems, ultimately fail to do this and end up being either a college without a meaningful connection to the witness of the church or a “church” without a meaningful witness to the goals of the college. Maryville College is committed to succeed where others have failed.

As part of our collective effort, my colleague Dr. Peggy Cowan has been selected as a participant in the Rhodes Regional Consultations on the Future of the Church-Related College, a nationwide initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment in Indianapolis and directed by Dr. Stephen Haynes at Rhodes College in Memphis. Our chaplain, the Rev. Stephen Nickle, convenes our Faith and Learning Committee, which involves faculty, administrators, and students in an ongoing conversation about this important issue.

For my part, I believe that the key to integrating the two goals of a church-related college is nicely captured in the title of a recent book by the theologian John B. Cobb, Jr. The title, **Becoming a Thinking Christian** (Abingdon Press, 1993), sums up what a church-related college should seek to accomplish. As a college, our primary mission is to assist students in becoming thinking human beings who can critically assess ideas, data, situations, and possibilities. As a church-related college, with historic and contemporary ties to the Christian tradition and the Presbyterian denomination, our mission should be to foster the development of “thinking Christians”—men and women who thoughtfully and critically reflect on all aspects of life from economics to science to religion. For those students who hold Christian convictions, our goal is to provide them with an opportunity to become thinking Christians. For those students who are not Christian, our goal is to provide them with an opportunity to see what a thinking Christian looks like. Hence, the point is not to make or insist that all students be Christian but, rather, to provide them with a model of what a thinking Christian is and to become one if they so choose. Clearly the thinking or cognitive dimension is not the whole of the Christian life (and thus the need for other forms of ministry and worship opportunities on campus) but it is an important aspect and one that is suited to the mission of a college. Thus, the way that Maryville College, as a college, can contribute to the historic witness of the church is by seeking to model and foster the development of thoughtful Christian men and women who can bring their critical and reflective skills into the life of the church and community.

What I have in mind is illustrated by the following excerpts from essays by two of our current students, **Kenny Saffles** (class of '99) and **Emily McLemore** (class of '00). Kenny and Emily, who were both on the Dean's List this year, were students in my Introduction to Christian Theology course last fall. What follows is from essays that they wrote for that course—essays that reveal their own growth and development in becoming thinking Christians.

(As part of our ongoing discussion about this vital issue, we welcome your input and response. Please direct your response to the College's Faith and Learning Committee in care of the chaplain, the Rev. Stephen Nickle.) ❖

## Kenny Saffles



“...I guess I was afraid to question some things because it was safer to trust in what I was taught to believe than to actually think about what I believed. For some reason, this is considered to be wrong in many “religious” circles. It is implied that if one questions or has curiosity or has some degree of doubt based on ignorance, then that person is not doing what is “right.” So, I guess that the biggest questions I had coming in were: why is it wrong to

wonder? why is it wrong to discuss these topics? and what is the “right” way to approach religion, and who decided that it was?

“...Therefore, I stripped everything down and challenged a lot of what I was taught to get at the core of what I believed. You know, I was proud of the results. My underlying faith didn't change but my understanding of it did; I had a better understanding of faith and Christian

continued on page 9

## Emily McLemore



“It is difficult to find one's way out of a garden labyrinth when one is in the midst of it, but when one stands on a hill overlooking it, the pattern becomes clear. So too with Christianity. Only by removing ourselves from the religion we are immersed in can we truly study it objectively and critically. Cut free from the strings of tradition, I have formulated answers to many questions this semester, but a few questions remain unanswered as of yet.

“The traditional church teaching that Adam and Eve had been created perfect yet had somehow fallen from perfection had always seemed paradoxical to me, and prior to the beginning of this class, I had struggled with this question of humankind's initial status. Needless to say, I was intrigued by Friedrich Schleiermacher's view which states that the idea of perfect human beings

continued on page 9



# Presbyterian faith a core of mission to Egypt

by Jeff Gary  
Director of Publications

It's a long way from Crescent Springs, Ky to Egypt. But MC alumna **Jennifer Stadtmiller '96**, seems to be doing just fine, thank you.

Like so many other MC alums, her work abroad is a fusion of her faith, her religious training and her MC experience. She found her way to Egypt through a volunteer program of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which places people in positions lasting two years with a partner church in the new country. Jennifer is working at a private school - one of 20 or so in Egypt run by the Synod of the Nile, a Presbyterian organization.

She says there is quite a bit of divine inspiration to her story.

She first began exploring the possibilities of working in the Middle East during her years as a student at MC when she did some relief work in Palestine in 1993. After inquiring about the possibilities of returning, she found this program. Operated through the Presbyterian Church (USA), it pays travel expenses and insurance costs. Of course, this makes it all feasible in the first place.

Further, her private school actually began looking for a music teacher the day before Jennifer sent in her application.

"You can see that it was because of MC connections that I found this opportunity."

Jennifer is making a difference by teaching music to elementary students (fifth grade last year; a group of second-through-sixth graders this year). The musical connection is not surprising, considering that she majored in music at MC and was involved in Maryville College Choir, the college community choir, the choir at New Providence Presbyterian Church, the kerygma singers (Presbyterian Scholars Choir), and Delta Omicron (a music fraternity). However, the job presents numerous challenges, despite her vast musical training.

"Since these children had basically no 'musical' education before I came, I had to start from scratch," she recalls. "I was lucky to find a curriculum in English to have some idea of where to start. Since I came (to the school in Egypt) we have done two major shows including the whole school and one production of a musical called Clowns. It just showed last month to a packed theater! I think it went extremely well."

The whole experience has been very rewarding, she says. And, it has helped her to reflect on and to refine her Presbyterian faith.

"My time at MC was full of discovering, questioning and changing. My faith, whatever it was, changed a lot during my time there. I studied world religions and began to be very interested in spirituality. I was fascinated especially by eastern religions and was actively studying Islam. Coming here seemed to bring it all together - my music, my cultural interests and my religious fascinations.

"This experience gave me the opportunity to live in a country where Islam is dominant, where I can see Christians and Muslims in a dialogue and where I can experience life with both. It has been wonderful.

"What this has done to my faith is hard to say. It has reminded me that we are all connected somehow whether we live on this side of the ocean or the other and whether we are of one 'religion' or another. It has shown me that people of different faiths don't always get along well and often get lost in trivialities, but there are the times when we all join together and forget our differences and those are the times of true faith."

Though she has enjoyed her overseas work, she is rapidly approaching a crossroads.

"My long term plans up until now still remain a question to me. I haven't quite decided what I want to do. My term is actually complete in June.

"I have the option to stay on another year in the volunteer program working in the same position. I also have an option to stay on in some other capacity. I also have the option to return to the states. I'm still not completely sure what I will do."

So in a sense, she has come a long way from Dixie Heights High School, Crescent Springs, MC and her Appalachian roots. But, she may soon return - with a broadened world view and a rededicated sense of purpose. ❖



**Jennifer Stadtmiller '96**

# Operation Care Lift brings hope, help to Russians

by Jeff Gary

Director of Publications

**K**athy Bushing Banfield '76 grew up on the Maryville College campus. Literally. The daughter of **Dr. Art Bushing '43**, she spent many childhood hours at MC as her father served his alma mater in a variety of capacities, most notably as head of the English Department. With her house and her home church, Highland Presbyterian Church, located just across the street from the campus she definitely grew up in the campus neighborhood.

"My MC experience was unique because of dad's involvement. For me, when I say MC, that's home. I really grew up on campus. For me, attending college was just a culmination of my experience."

But though her life at Maryville College as a student in the 70's may have been slightly different for Kathy, the world around her and her peers was all too familiar. Shrouded in the height of the Cold War, many eyed Eastern bloc nations as the enemy. How could MC students have imagined, then, that by the late 1990s, communism would fall and a missionary trip to the most rural outposts of Russia would be possible? For Kathy, last year, those far-off dreams became a reality.

A staff member with Campus Crusade for Christ since 1987, Banfield was a part of the staff support for a volunteer effort last winter — Operation Care Lift — a specific project that brings humanitarian aid to needy people of the former Soviet Union. This was her third trip to Russia; her second Operation Care Lift. Kathy's husband **Tom Banfield '79**, another staffer, has made more than 10 trips to Russia with the project's director, Josh McDowell.

McDowell first went to Russia in '92 to give aid to a Children's Hospital. At that time, he saw there was an even greater need out in the countryside. "There is an incredible need," she says. "This effort comes together to meet a physical need of the Russian people. As we meet the physical need, we earn credibility that helps us to help them to meet their spiritual needs. We bring hope and help for the children of the former Soviet Union."

McDowell negotiated with the Russian Minister of Education to allow his group to bring in supplies — things like paper, pencils, and other school supplies. The group also brings medicine, food and toys. In all, 81.4 tons of goods were shipped for the relief effort. They were shipped in 11 40-foot shipping containers (and an additional 20 foot container). From a central distribution center, the goods were trucked out to individual sites.

Actually, before the group ever got to Russia, they went to Dallas to train bus captains. It was a sort of orientation for the trip. In addition to discussing logistics, the group also talked about crisis management — what do to when there is a medical emergency or if there is a fire. Kathy coordinated food services for the two-day event. Then, it was off to Russia.

In addition to bringing the concrete needs, Operation Care Lift conducted a staff development program, in conjunction with a non-profit agency called the Buckner Institute, for the staff of the education ministry.

"Social workers in Russia have inadequate training in dealing with issues like drug abuse and alcoholism. These issues have really emerged with the fall of the old regime. It was an excellent conference. It came together really well. And, we have agreed to do future conferences with the Russian education ministry and with the Buckner Institute."

The benefits of Operation Care Lift are felt on both sides. For the volunteers and staffers, it is an enrichment in many ways.

"This builds relationships. You get to know people, you make a connection, you make a friend, you stay in touch," she says. "There is a lot of personal and cultural exchange that goes on and that is very good."

"From the standpoint of my faith, my work is really an extension of my faith," she says. "It's hard to separate the two. This ministry is very obedient to God's call. It reflects our choices and our love of the Father."

The Russian experience is a far cry from the days at MC. Kathy sang in the choir and worked in the bookstore as an MC student. She majored in elementary education. Eventually, she met Tom, who was also an MC student — a music major. But, even though the MC experience and the Russian experience might seem worlds apart, they do actually fold back into each other.

There is a new generation of Banfields and they have learned from the Russian experience and they are planning their own lives — the oldest is a Russian studies major at Stetson University in Florida and the second child is studying abroad in Germany. And on the recent Russian trip, the two youngest children were a part of the American contingent.

It has become a family affair. And, it has been very rewarding.

"This particular experience is an extension of my faith," she says. "The cultures may be different but the truth is the same. It's a wonderful thing to see." ❖



**Kathy Bushing Banfield '76**, standing in Red Square with Russian interpreter, Lianna, and mother-in-law, Ada Banfield



watercolor by  
Susan Cassidy Wilhoit

## Restoration of the CCM:

# *A Symbol of the College's Faith Component*

If the bell tower of Anderson Hall is the symbol of Maryville College, the Center for Campus Ministry is its heart!

This wonderful building, located in the center of campus, was constructed as the first college library in 1888. A memorial to Thomas Jefferson Lamar, "the second founder" of Maryville College, the building was erected for the total cost of \$5,000. In 1922 the library was moved to Thaw Hall. The Lamar Memorial Library building served successive generations of students as a post office, bookstore and the print shop before becoming the Center for Campus Ministry in 1982. In addition to containing the offices of the chaplain and volunteer services, it is a place for weekly worship and a meeting place for a variety of campus groups and organizations.

In celebration of their 60th year reunions, the classes of 1931 and 1932 raised the funds to restore the stained glass window in the CCM, which depicts the resurrection scene from Durer's "The Great Passion." The rest of the 3,377 square foot building will now be restored, inside and out, with additional office space for the chaplain, church relations program, and student volunteer services. New lighting and mechanical systems will provide comfort and interior enhancements.

The restoration of the building is one of two capital projects associated with the *MC2000 Plan*. To date, 30 percent of the \$700,000 goal has been committed. The CCM Restoration Committee, chaired by Ellie Morrow Craven, retired Executive Director of Development at the College, plans to raise the remaining amount over the next 18 months. President Emeritus Dr. Joseph Copeland is honorary chair of the project.

The restoration of the CCM represents the faith component of student life at Maryville. As Maryville College Chaplain, the Rev. Stephen Nickle says, "A good deal of the mission and activity of the Center for Campus Ministry revolves around the biblical injunction to nurture community through the practice of hospitality. Through our worship, counseling, fellowship, and outreach, we build bridges of understanding and clarify the faith on which we base our lives." The spiritual dimension of a Maryville education is vital to the Maryville experience. In this project, we are not only restoring a valuable and beautiful project, we're affirming that this is truly a College of faith and learning. ❖



*“In the year 2000, the College will have a strong voluntary covenant with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); will have an ongoing exploration of the significance of church relationship; will continue its strong commitment to the Christian faith and will listen attentively and humbly to the call of God no matter how God may speak.”*

*Excerpt, MC2000 Plan*

## **Drs. Cowan and Taddie Installed As Chairs of Religion and Music**

Dr. Margaret Parks Cowan was installed as the Ralph W. Beeson Chair of Religion at Maryville College on April 9, 1998. She succeeds Dr. David Cartlidge who has retired as Beeson Professor Emeritus. Also installed at the ceremony was Division of Fine Arts Chair Dr. Daniel Taddie as the Sheila Sutton Hunter Chair of Music.

Cowan has been Coordinator of General Education and Assistant Professor, Division of Humanities at the College since 1996. She began her career at the College as adjunct instructor in the Department of Religion and Philosophy and Division of Humanities in 1990.



**Drs. Daniel Taddie and Margaret Parks Cowan**

Taddie came to Maryville College in 1990 from Bethel College (TN) as the first holder of the Hunter Chair of Music. The chair was established to honor the memory of Sheila Sutton Hunter, a 1955 cum laude Maryville graduate, who excelled in vocal and instrumental music during her years at the College and in the professional arena. The endowed chair was made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Hunter's parents, Algie and the late Elizabeth Sutton, who established a charitable remainder trust in 1986.

The Ralph W. Beeson endowed chair is a five-year renewable appointment and provides funds to support the faculty member named to the position. It was endowed by the estate of the late Ralph Beeson, whose gift of over \$4 million in 1990 was the largest single gift in the College's history.

Under the guidelines set up for endowed faculty chairs at MC, the appointee must hold the doctorate and show evidence of excellence in teaching, scholarly accomplishment and promise, and the ability to make an outstanding contribution to the College.

Beyond the benefit of faculty salary, the endowed chair holder may derive other advantages, such as travel to professional meetings, research support and scholarly materials.

Cowan, Phi Beta Kappa, received her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University with a major in Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and a minor in New Testament.

She received her M.A. in Biblical Studies from St. Mary's University of San Antonio, TX, and her B.A. in religion, magna cum laude, from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, VA.

Taddie received his M.A., M.F.A. and Ph.D from The University of Iowa and his B.A. from Marycrest College. ♦

## **The future of Church-Related colleges to be studied**

Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Parks Cowan, the newly named Ralph W. Beeson Chair of Religion at Maryville College, will attend The Rhodes Regional Consultations on the Future of the Church-Related College beginning this spring. Funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. of Indianapolis, the workshops have been established to initiate and encourage reflection on the prospects of the church-related college at the end of the twentieth century.

Selection for the workshops took place through a competitive application process. There were 120 applicants from nearly as many colleges. Cowan was one of 45 persons selected to participate from around the country with only eight from the Southeast.

In speaking of the Consultations Cowan says, "I think that there are two primary implications. First, one of the expectations is that I will organize formal discussions of the meaning of church-relatedness on the Maryville Campus. Because there is interest in this issue on our campus but little clarity or consensus about the nature of our identity as a church-related institution, the opportunity to discuss the issue in a formal way could be very meaningful to our community. Our discussion would benefit from perspectives gained through my participation in Consultation meetings with representatives from other institutions.

"Secondly, another expectation is that participants seek opportunities to share the work of the consultations through publication and presentation. I'm looking forward to helping Maryville College share its commitment to this issue with the community at large." ♦

# Teaching of Ethics an integral part of new MC curriculum

by Jeff Gary  
Director of Publications

When the Sir John Templeton Foundation recognized Maryville College as a member of its honor roll of 'Character Building Colleges,' it was more than just an award. It was a validation.

An example of the MC commitment to building character is the integration of ethics into the core curriculum. This is part of the campus ethos that dates back generations. In his history of the College, *A Century of Maryville College*, MC's fifth President Dr. Samuel Tyndale Wilson wrote about the Maryville founded by Dr. Isaac Anderson. "The never-forgotten objective in Dr. Anderson's life campaign was the development of Christian character in the leaders whom he trained for the Southwest...In this character objective the moral element was, of course, vital."

Those words ring true today. In fact, the College has taught ethics both implicitly and explicitly throughout its history.

When a curriculum change occurred in the early 1980s, the course Humanities 390 (Values and Decisions in Contemporary Society) was officially adopted. It had been taught as a special studies course in the late 70s. Dr. Harry Howard, Professor of Political Science, was one of the instructors.

*"It is important to provide the students with tools, or skills, that are useful in dealing with moral dilemmas.*

*What we don't want to do is to give them answers."*

"It was a course in applied ethics," Howard says. "Our goal was to help students deal with ethical dilemmas in concrete situations."

Taught in January Term, students received instruction for three hours in a variety of ways. The first hour, Howard says, was spent examining a case study in ethics. The second hour was more of an academic approach to the topic. The third and final hour each day was spent in discussion of a contemporary issue.

"It was sort of a point-counterpoint format," he says. "Since we often team taught, the professors could take opposing viewpoints. Our feeling was that until you understand another point of view, you don't have the framework, necessary, in defending your own argument."

Toward the end of the course, students would examine ethical issues in their chosen field of study.

"In teaching applied ethics," Howard concludes, "It is important to provide the students with tools, or skills, that are useful in dealing with moral dilemmas. What we don't want to do is to give them answers."



The College rededicated its commitment to the integration of ethics in the classroom when it wrote the new curriculum in 1994-95 and adopted it with the enrollment of last year's freshman class. The new capstone course is Ethics 490 Philosophical and Theological Foundations of Ethical Thought. And the teaching of ethics is infused throughout the curriculum.

"We introduce them to the subject in the fall freshman seminar," says Dr. Margaret Parks Cowan, Ralph W. Beeson Chair of Religion and Coordinator of General Education at MC. "We talk about their fundamental beliefs — in terms of philosophy and religion. But ethics is more than just that. It should have something to do with our behavior and a coherent worldview: How do I believe? What does that mean?"

After the freshmen mull over those questions during winter break, they come back to campus for a three-week January Term course — "Perspectives on the Environment." Here again, they examine questions of ethics.

"During the final week of the course, they are given models of persons who have developed an environmental ethic. Then, they use that as they try to construct their own."

Students all across campus come in contact with the questions of ethical dilemmas throughout their college careers. Journalism students discuss ethics in terms of fair and honest news reporting, questions of the public's right to know information and invasion of privacy issues. Literature students confront with ethical ideals in courses like Western Civilization 180 and 390 as well as Literature 270 and 290.

It is also interwoven into a number of courses in the natural sciences, in

**continued on page 9**

## Kenny

beliefs. I am not saying that I have the answers now, because I do not. But, for myself, the questions I have are no longer threatening to my faith. I answered those and the ones that remain are there more for mental and theological stimulation than for living my life in fear of doubt and ignorance.

"...I find myself in better "shape" now than when I entered the class. That is due to the fact that the professor provided a means of exploring issues without destroying foundations. He made thinking a stimulating exercise and class something that was always interesting because it was open to anything, and in a way, it was a mystery. And that is as it should be."

## Emily

disobeying "the divine command would be so irrational as to be unthinkable."

"Having established that humans had not fallen from perfection, I then pondered the purpose of creating imperfect beings. I theorized that humans had been created so that we might learn and, in learning, grow closer to God. For the knowledge to have meaning, I believed, it would be necessary for it to be gained through first-hand experience. Not long after class began, we read a selection about the theologian Irenaeus, and I was pleased to discover that he shared my belief. Writes historian Linwood Urban, "Irenaeus holds that the whole purpose of the creation and of the role of the redeemer is to bring these imperfect beings to their fullness" (138).

"Thus I leave this class with some of my questions answered, with support for those answers, and with unanswered questions as well. I am glad to have had the opportunity to have been introduced to so many theologians this semester, and I will reflect upon their views as I answer those questions I face today and those I will face in the future."

## Teaching Ethics

business and in the social sciences.

The head-on confrontation of ethics will take center stage, again, when the capstone ethics course is taught during the senior year. This year's sophomore class will be the first to enroll in this course, which is being developed by Dr. William Meyer, Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy.

"There is a problem with the way our culture talks about ethics. Everyone talks in terms of values," Meyer says, "but our language of values carries an underlying assumption that there are no genuinely right or wrong answers to ethical questions. Rather, it is assumed that everyone simply chooses their own personal values, and, thus, their own answers to ethical questions. Ethics then becomes a matter of personal preference and taste, which turns ethics class into something of a cooking club."

One of the goals of the new ethics course, Meyer says, is to have students carefully examine these cultural assumptions and to compare them with major alternatives in philosophy and theology. "My hope for the senior capstone is that we will address these fundamental questions. Does ethics have any rational foundations? Are they foundations we can share publicly in a diverse society? How does ethical responsibility relate to a choice of vocation? Are we responsible for the public good?"

"I often paraphrase Tolstoy when I define ethics," he says. "What should we do and how shall we live?"

# ... On being church related ...

by Jeff Gary

Director of Publications

In and around the Maryville College community, you hear this statement often: Maryville College is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA).

But just exactly what does that mean?

Of course, Maryville College was founded in 1819 by The Rev. Isaac Anderson as Southern and Western Theological Seminary. A Presbyterian minister himself, Anderson felt "The Southwest" (as it was in those days) needed a frontier seminary to educate young ministers. He submitted his plan to the Union Presbytery which endorsed it to the Synod of Tennessee. That's where it all began.

The College officially became Maryville College in 1842 but has remained tied to the Church over the years. Most of the Presidents of MC have actually been ordained Presbyterian ministers.

With the reunion in 1983 of the United Presbyterian Church, USA, and the Presbyterian Church, U.S. -- and the subsequent merger of Union and Knoxville Presbyteries in 1985 -- the College and Church have continued and strengthened the historical ties through a Covenant. The College also has such a Covenant with the Synod of Living Waters.

There are many specific points in that Covenant between the College and Church. Most notably, Maryville College has committed itself to extend the witness of the Church in the area of higher education, provide opportunities for students to learn about the Church and to promote the concerns of the Church which also fit with the College's educational mission. Also, on many occasions the College has offered its resources to the Church (human resources, facilities and otherwise).

MC Chaplain, the Rev. Stephen Nickle says the tie between Church and College is a logical one, "because the oldest continuous mission of the Presbyterian Church in the United States beyond the congregation is our mission in higher education. It began in 1735 when the Rev. William Tennent Sr. established the Log College, the precursor to our modern-day Princeton University."

In addition, service to the community is a cornerstone on which the College was founded by Dr. Anderson. This unique mission has continued throughout the years.

The notion of Presbyterianism is also unique, Nickle says. From the Greek *presbuteros*, meaning elder, the word Presbyterian has also become synonymous with 'Reformed,' or in other words churches that were founded in Calvinist tradition. According to the Presbyterian Church (USA), *presbuteros* is mentioned 72 times in the New Testament.

In America, the first presbytery was organized in 1706, the first synod in 1717 and the first General Assembly in 1789. This multi-tiered governance is also peculiar to Reformed churches.

"Also, a defining characteristic of the Presbyterian Church is its confessional nature, that is, this part of the Christian church bears witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ in creedal statements and confessions in which we declare to the members of the church and to the world who and what we are, what it is we believe and what we resolve to do. These statements identify us as a community of people known by its convictions as well as by its actions. They guide the church as subordinate students, subject to the authority of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, as the Scriptures bear witness to Him.

"The notion of loving God with our minds is also very important to Presbyterians," Nickle continues. "The idea -- again using our minds -- of being a thinking Christian is not uniquely Presbyterian, but it is very important in our faith."

Here again is the logical tie between church and college. A private liberal arts college like Maryville often works with the notion of vocation. It isn't just that Maryville College produces many future members of the clergy (actually, there have been many). More importantly, however, MC works to help each student find his or her calling," Nickle says.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has a membership of more than 2 million nationwide. In the Presbytery of East Tennessee, there are more than 15,000 members in 81 churches.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Projects selected for Kin Takahashi Week

The second Kin Takahashi Week is upon us.

The House in the Woods, education department and Anderson Hall basement have all been selected as projects for **Kin Takahashi Week**, scheduled for **June 8-13**. Alumni, parents and friends of Maryville College are invited back to campus to help spruce up, move and/or renovate facilities. Although arrangements can be made to stay and eat on campus for all of the six days, volunteers would be welcome for any amount of time.

For more information, call 1-800-597-2687, ext. 8132.



## Former soccer players sought

Maryville College can't promise cool, comfortable weather in August, but it can promise a nice soccer field and lots of friendly competition.

Coach Pepe Fernandez is inviting all soccer players who graduated from Maryville College – and who

can still run and dribble – to participate in the alumni soccer games planned for Sunday, Aug. 23. The men's game will begin at 1 p.m.; the women's at 3 p.m.

Maryville College's annual indoor soccer tournament has already been scheduled for 1999. Dates for the tourney are Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13-14.

"We expect these to be two fun and exciting weekends of soccer, and we invite everybody back for a good time," Fernandez said. For more information about alumni soccer games, call Fernandez at 1-800-597-2687, ext. 8284 or 423/981-8284.

## MC 'listens to its own' during lecture series

Maryville College will be listening to its own alumni during the annual Appalachian Lecture Series planned for the fall of 1998.

**Dr. Michael Montgomery '72, Noriko Chapman '90 and Lloyd Shue '42** are scheduled to make presentations on topics related to the Appalachian region. Montgomery, a professor of English at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, will open the series Sept. 8 with a presentation on the Smoky Mountain dialect.

Chapman will join MC faculty members Dr. Scott Brunger and Dr. Young-Bae Kim in speaking about the research behind their publication "Effects of Japanese Investment in a Small American Community" during an Oct. 13 session. Floyd Lopefido and his work in a coal mining community will be the topic of Shue's presentation Nov. 10.

For specific times and locations, please call Chris Nugent at 1-800-597-2687, ext. 8257.

## February Meetings Generate Alumni Interest

MC's February Meetings, the College's annual time of spiritual renewal, was the occasion of a mini-reunion for two members of the class of '83. **Jeff Hayes** and **Brian McFarland**, both now Presbyterian ministers, chose to return to campus during the scheduled February Meetings activities in order to visit with each other and as Hayes said, "reground myself."

Hayes, currently pastor of New Concord Presbyterian Church in Concord, VA, and McFarland, pastor of Dale Presbyterian Church in Dale, IN, said they would like to see other alumni ministers join them in future years in a form of retreat.

The pastors said that they were intentional about attending this year's February meetings and choosing to meet during that time because the topic, "Seeing is Believing - Visions of Life Through Film," appealed to them. Yet once they were here, there was an aspect of February Meetings that the two had never thought about before. It occurred to them that other alumni ministers might benefit from coming back to the College's February Meetings as well.

According to McFarland, professional loneliness is a natural part of ministerial duties, and that coming back "home" would allow pastors to reground and to focus on their faith and spirituality. Maryville College Chaplain Stephen Nickle met with Hayes and McFarland and is excited about the possibility of future retreats for alumni ministers. He calls the two "groundbreakers" and would welcome inquiries from interested alumni. For more information contact Stephen Nickle by writing the Chaplain's office or by calling 423/981-8298.

The 1998 February Meetings on the MC campus featured Dr. Robert Benne and Elder T.W. Carpenter. Benne, who is the Jordon-Trexler Professor of Religion and Director of the Center for Church and Society at Roanoke College in Salem, VA, spoke on the general theme of "Seeing is Believing - Visions of Life Through Film."

Carpenter lead discussion on "Spiritual Commitments and the Necessity of the Holy Spirit in What We Do" and "What it Takes to be Successful in the Field of Gospel Music" in the context of the Maryville College Gospel Music Workshop. The workshop, which included gospel choirs from Berea, Clemson, Davidson and the University of Tennessee was held the same week as the February Meetings. ♦

## *A* message from your alumni president

**Dear Friends,**

This is my last assigned copy for *FOCUS*, because my term as president of the Maryville College Alumni Association is about to expire. You, too, may think I've served a long time, but in fact, the three years have flown – as all busy times do. As the time draws near to retirement, I even think I'll miss meeting deadlines for *FOCUS*.

As an organism, the Alumni Association has been pretty predictable. Yes, it has grown, as the number of students enrolled in Maryville College has increased. Yes, it has continued to break records – in giving, in percent participation, in sheer numbers of alumni returning to campus events, in involved alumni participating in regional Maryville College gatherings, and in projects such as student recruitment, capital campaigns and campus improvements.

We're more than predictable! We're hugely predictable! You can predict that Maryville College alumni will get involved, will give, will support this remarkable campus in ways that outpace your expectations!

Thank you!

I have represented you at alumni meetings and at meetings of the Maryville College Board of Directors. I have represented you to seniors, to freshmen, to children of alumni, to the MC National Advisory Council, to the president and other officers of the College. I have spoken with many of you on the telephone and by mail. YOU DON'T ALWAYS AGREE with Alumni Board actions.

HOWEVER . . . , you have always been reasonable, always friendly, always considerate, and when provocative, always negotiable.

Thank you!

Serving the College in alumni activities should entitle one to semester credit hours. This has been an important aspect of my lifelong learning. Dr. Gibson's lecture to the Board of Directors about the meaning of a liberal arts education, Dr. Dean Boldon's description of the new curriculum, Donna Davis' analysis of the critical factors in recruiting students who are a "good fit," and Bruce Guillaume's introduction of alumni to Mountain Challenge – to name a few – inspired me with the effort, the skills, and the effect of truly competent and dedicated leadership in the administration and the faculty and the staff of the College. We should all be so lucky as to be enrolled in Maryville College in 1998!

Alumni especially are privileged to enjoy the talents of the professional development staff, especially **Karen Beaty '94**, who has given wisdom, leadership, great writing skills, skills to lead alumni activities into the 21st Century, and a love for the College in her work as director of alumni and parent relations.

In May, **Tim Topham '80** succeeds me as president. You'll like Tim. For the few of you who may not know him, he promises to give short speeches, write shorter articles for *FOCUS*, fish only when absolutely necessary, and maintain the national economy on its steady rate of growth. Yes, he understands e-mail better than I do, too, so you will have no excuses not to communicate!

I appreciate how you kept all the home fires burning and a candle in the window for Maryville College.

Peace and best wishes,

**Jan Rickards Dungan '65**  
*Alumni Association President*



If you're interested in contacting your Alumni Office or sending alumni news, write to:  
Maryville College Alumni Office, 502 E. Lamar Alexander Pky, Maryville, TN 37804-5907  
or call: 423/981-8198  
or by e-mail: [beaty@maryvillecollege.edu](mailto:beaty@maryvillecollege.edu)



# Florida alumni reunited after three years

After a three-year hiatus, staff members in the Maryville College Alumni Office last year reorganized the annual gathering of alumni, parents and friends living in Florida. Held at the Life Enrichment Center of the United Methodist Church's Florida Conference Jan. 9-11, the Florida Reunion drew nearly 50 Maryville College constituents to Leesburg.

"Fun" and "fulfilling" were the words **Rosemary Potter '60** used to describe the weekend event. Don and **Carol Ditzenberger '56** said it was "a quite enjoyable experience." And **Robert and Sue Hassall '58** commented: "We're very happy to be together again."

First begun in 1955 by **George '33** and the late **Catheryn Fischbach '36**, the Florida Reunion drew many alumni, family members and friends to the Fischbachs' Circle F Dude Ranch near Lake Wales. The reunion soon became a tradition and was organized by the Fischbachs and the College every year until 1994, when Catheryn died. Attempts to organize a reunion in 1995 failed.

"It became clear to the College that the Florida Reunion was special to many of our alumni," said Mark Cate, director of development and alumni affairs. "We received phone calls, letters and even a few e-mail messages asking us to revive it."

In an effort to gauge interest in the reunion,



(Front row, l-r) Alumnae and spouses **Betty Lou Boggs '56**, **Carol Ditzenberger '56**, **Sylvia Crawford '55**, **Katherine Vousden '56** and (back row, l-r) **Scott Boggs**, **Don Ditzenburger** and **Ed Vousden** agreed that a Lake Griffin sunset would make a good backdrop for a picture.

'clean' and 'fun' — but the Life Enrichment Center seemed to meet about as many of these requests as was possible."

Accommodations at the Life Enrichment Center are motel-style, with a private bath and two twin beds in each room. Avid campers **Sandy Rabun-Lind '83**, her husband Don and two children found the center's campground facilities very nice. Specifically, Rabun-Lind commented on the bath house.

"Good campground showers," she said. "Some people would like to know that."

The 1998 Florida Reunion began Jan. 9 with registration and dinner in the conference center's cafeteria. A hayride around the property followed dinner, and campfire stories and S'mores were shared after the sun went down on Lake Griffin.

After breakfast in the cafeteria the following morning, reunion attendees enjoyed free time. While Karen and **Ted Frauman '59** and others left the conference center for antique shopping in nearby Mount Dora, the Linds and alumni couple **Danny '80** and **Nancy Morris '81** and **Skellie Morris '75** challenged each other to a dangerous game of croquet.

The annual reunion banquet was held later Saturday evening. In all, 33 adults and six children turned out for the dinner. After people introduced themselves and shared their Maryville College experiences, prizes were awarded to the oldest and youngest alumni in attendance and the alumnus who came the furthest to attend. **Norma Kalbhenn '33**, Nancy Morris and Ted Frauman were the big winners.

Cate gave a slide presentation of the campus and talked about the improvements being made in Maryville. Potter, who has attended more than 15 Florida reunions, gave a brief history of the event, explaining the



Just like being back in Tennessee — (l-r) **Ted Frauman '59**, **Kim Dolce '79**, **Alice Ayers '57**, **Rosemary Potter '60**, **Marv Harrison**, **Carol Ditzenberger '56**, **Don Ditzenberger**, **Pam Milligan** and **Tom Milligan '73** wondered who the chaperones were for this Maryville College excursion.

as well as where people wanted to have it, what time of year would be most convenient and how much people were willing to spend for accommodations, the College sent surveys to all of its Florida constituents.

"It wasn't easy to find a place that met all of our alumni requests — convenient location, reasonable prices, family-oriented atmosphere,

continued on next page



Terri and Trevor Lind, daughter and son of **Sandy Rabun-Lind '83** and Don Lind, enjoyed the conference center's playground equipment and friendship of Curt Morris (right), son of **Danny '80** and **Nancy Morris '81**.

"It's fun to get together with others and swap stories and make plans to help with campus projects," Katherine said.

Maryville's Florida constituents can start saving up their stories now. "Swapping" will begin Jan. 15, 1999, and continue until Jan. 17 at the Life Enrichment Center.

Florida chapter's previous organization and function.

Before the end of the evening, Potter and her sister, **Libby Lee Burke '65**, were elected to share the chapter presidency, Danny Morris was elected vice president and **Kim Dolce '79** was elected secretary. Discussion was held regarding next year's reunion, and those in attendance seemed confident that at least 60 people would attend the 1999 Florida Reunion. The Great Scot 1-Mile Run and the Scottie Wake-Up Walk — both established events at the reunion since 1983 — were held early Sunday morning. The **Rev. Ralph Parvin '43** led the group in worship and song during an informal service that followed breakfast.

Ed and **Katherine Vousden '56** said they definitely plan to attend another Florida Reunion. Not only are the alumni "back," but they're glad to have found "such a nice place to have the reunion," she said, adding that she plans to tell more people about it.



Although only 28 alumni and spouses joined in for this picture, 33 adults and six children attended the Saturday night banquet at the conference center.

## MARK YOUR CALENDERS NOW!

Have you marked **Oct. 16-18** on your calendars and made plans to attend Maryville's **1998 Homecoming**? If not, you need to get started! Thirteen reunion classes have already begun ...

Just like last year, the Maryville College Alumni Office has many events planned for all alumni, parents and friends during Homecoming 1998. Departmental Open Houses, a Service of Remembrance, athletic events, campus tours, the Blount County Alumni Association's annual Harvest Craft Fair and the Maryville College Alumni Association's annual banquet are just a few of the many enjoyable ways you can spend your weekend on campus.

### Friday, October 16

Alumni Weekend Registration  
Scots Tennis Classic  
Scots Golf Classic  
MC Soccer Games  
Reunion Class Gatherings  
Friday Night Activities

### Saturday, October 17

Services of Remembrance  
Campus Events  
Harvest Crafts Fair  
Lunch on the Grounds  
Campus Parade  
Football Game  
Alumni Banquet

### Sunday, October 18

Worship Service  
Society of 1819 Luncheon

**If you're a member of the class of 1933, 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988 or 1993, additional events are being planned for you in honor of your reunion year.** You should have already received a letter from your class president and a form to fill out for reunion class booklets. If you did graduate from Maryville in the years printed above and have not received any information, please call the Alumni Office at 1-800-59SCOTS (7-2687), ext. 8198.

Come back to Maryville this October and expect to make many more good memories at your alma mater.



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